

## WELSH TIN PLATE.

The Trade in That Country Ruined by the McKinley Bill.

## GREAT BRITAIN MANUFACTURERS

Praying for the Passage of the Wilson Bill—A Welsh Newspaper's Testimony That the McKinley Bill is Building Up the Industry in the United States and That the Tin Platers of Wales Are Suffering in Consequence.

The Swansea News of the Week of January 20, which has been brought to the INTELLIGENCER office by a Wheeling subscriber, contains the following article which will be read with interest at this time:

Contrary to expectation, the quarterly meeting held at Birmingham on Thursday last showed that for some months at least the improvement in the tin plate trade is likely to be very slight, and the hope deferred is beginning to make the hearts of the manufacturers and employees sick of the present inaction. The reports from America, too, which go to prove that the fight over the new tariff bill will be a stubborn one, and fought inch by inch, are the cause of despondency on the part of tin-platers here in South Wales. The contention of Mr. Burrows, of Michigan, the chief spokesman on behalf of the Republicans, that their policy had not had an opportunity for fair development is believed by a large number of electors in the States—so large a number, indeed, that it is as yet questionable, despite the emphatic utterances of President Cleveland, whether the proposed amendments to the tariff bill will become law in their present form. We in this country are apt to believe that the Democratic party in the States are pledged to the tariff policy as enunciated by President Cleveland; but such is not the case, for a large number of the Democratic party hold independent views of their own. Votes, too, count for something in the States, and that will explain many of the anomalies existing in the present tariff, one of which is that, while they tax heavily the imported tinned plate, they also tax heavily the tinned plate itself, which, to our minds, should be allowed into the States free, and which taxation is said to be due to the desire to retain the votes of Dakota, which is said to be a tin-producing country. That the metal itself should be on the free list goes without saying, it being even more an expensive article, for even here to coat a box of the common size, 20 by 14, means, allowing for waste and allowing all improvements, nearly 2s. per box for metal alone, taking said metal at its present price of £72 per ton, which is a very low one, and £20 per ton below what has been its ruling price. The American workmen, too, are more conservative than we give them credit for being, and, although there is a great outcry on the part of the woolen shortly after the McKinley act came into operation (owing to a slight increase in the cost of articles affected by the McKinley tariff), still, the fact that a large number of the other industries would be stimulated by the production in the States of tin-plates, which would amount to about seven million boxes yearly, and would keep going a large number of steel-works, coal-mines, foundries, and other industries directly associated with the production of tin-plates, as well as minor commercial industries, is gradually bringing them to philosophically put up with a small loss in the hope of a greater gain. Another very important factor in the discussion on the tariff reform in America, is the fact that Trades unionism is more highly developed there than here, and we may also add that nearly all leaders of trades unions there are protectionists, and have immense influence in the councils of the nation.

JOHN JARRETT.

We may mention one who is known by repute, viz., John Jarrett, president of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers of the United States, himself a Welshman, who has always taken a leading part in all tariff measures, for we find that as long ago as the year 1878 the committee of which he was leader advocated a duty of 2½c per pound on all imported tin and tinned plate. The labor party in the States favor a tariff so adjusted as to give their people who pay the taxes and support the government adequate protection against foreign competition in their home markets. They also favor the abolition of internal revenue taxes, and if, after their abolition, further reduction of taxation by the national government shall be desired at any time, it shall be done by placing on the free list all such articles as do not enter into competition with home productions and manufacture, but in no case should the tariff upon such articles as do enter into competition with them be placed at lower duties than shall be required to maintain and keep them upon a footing with foreign competitors.

WHAT IT HAS DONE HERE.

The effect of the McKinley tariff has, without a doubt, given an impetus to the tin plate trade in the States, and, although the present depression is pointed out as evidence to the contrary, we cannot but allow that it is world-wide, and affects all trades alike. One startling fact in support of that proposition is that, although nearly three years have elapsed since the McKinley agitation, the tin plate trade in South Wales has failed to right itself, and one-third of its productive capacity has been at a standstill for the last six months, and a portion even for the last twelve months and longer. Some for a long time attributed the slackness which existed to the fact that a rush was made to export plates across the water for months prior to the passage of the McKinley bill, but that cause does not now exist, and even now it is well known that large stocks of black plate are exported from South Wales, which are likely to be discontinued as more mills are laid down in the States. The price of labor, too, in the States is not likely to have such an important bearing on the trade in America, for it is stated that tin platers there have agreed to heavy reductions in their wage list. It has been contended that our only hope of retaining the tin plate trade in South Wales would be by flooding the American markets with plates at a low cost, but surely they cannot be produced at a much lower figure than that now ruling, viz., 10s net, which, with all due allowance for the low price of steel, tin, coal, &c., can show but a small balance, if any, on the credit side. If, too, the protectionist party of the States maintain their position, the cheapness of manufacture here will all along be nullified by a proportionate increase of the tariff on the other side. Therefore, the only hope is that those now interested

in the trade will turn their attention to other markets than the States, which makes the trade at present so uncertain.

EFFECT OF McKINLEYISM.

The ill effects of McKinleyism here may be seen in the fact that there are at present over 5,000 tin-platers, including boys and girls, idle, beside a large number connected with industries who depend upon the tin-plate trade for a living. The loss in wages alone to those directly engaged in the trade amounts to over £12,000 weekly, while the loss to outsiders must be large. The employers' loss, too, at the low estimate of 6d per box profit, which is small enough, and also taking into account the standing charges, cannot be placed at a less estimate than, say, £1,000 weekly. These figures are based on the output of about 160 mills, now reported as idle, and with that we have to take into account many now running at a loss, in hopes of better times soon dawning upon them, whose loss in the aggregate must be very heavy. On the other hand, many manufacturers benefit owing to a larger output, which, if the restricted output held good, would allow somewhere about 30 more mills to keep going, and thus reduce materially the distress now existing. The suffering on the part of the workmen has been keen; in fact, tin-platers have never in the history of the trade been so hardly pressed as during the last year, and we have only to mention such places as Penclawdd, Llangeonoch, Pontyistawr, and Pontypool, and, indeed, the whole of the western valley, where nearly one-third of the mills now idle are situated, all of which have been idle for months, to convey some idea of the distress now existing. Although tin-platers are generous, and have contributed thousands of pounds to mitigate the distress of their fellows, the area of distress is so wide that the proportion of relief is very small, and tin-platers, too, are rather backward as a body in making their poverty known to outsiders. We could give very many instances of homes without food or fire, even where relief funds existed, and your readers may imagine that 2s. or 2s. 6d. per week does not go far to maintain a family—even if only in bread—accustomed to good living, as tin-platers are, from the laborious and trying nature of their work. It may easily be judged how keenly they feel their present distress. The hope was prevalent that with the new year just ushered in there would be an early and decided improvement in the trade, but now that the chances of the repeal or modification of the McKinley tariff are not so bright, and the impression that if it took place it would not come into operation until late in the year, the despondency of tin-platers has increased, and many of them are turning their attention to other sources of employment, and are not likely to resume tin plating until their shall appear something definite as to its future prospects. Great as has been the suffering in certain districts and trades owing to McKinleyism, we doubt if any body of workmen have suffered so much as the tin platers of South Wales, and we can but hope that something definite will soon be known from across the pond that will tend to relieve the strain now existing.

## A MISSISSIPPI TRAGEDY.

A Populist Preacher Editor and Member of the Legislature Fights a Duel to the Death With Three Men—The Result of a Political Feud.

Kosciusko, Miss., March 4.—In the midst of a large throng gathered in the Attala county court house at noon yesterday a desperate duel to the death with revolvers was engaged in between Rev. W. P. Ratliffe, a member of the Mississippi legislature and one of the Populist leaders of the State, and Hon. S. A. Jackson, also a member of the legislature and a prominent Democratic politician.

Jackson was killed instantly as was also Samuel Russell, a bystander and William Saunders, another innocent spectator, was carried away with but little hope of surviving the wound he received. Ratliffe came off unscathed and was soon incarcerated behind the bars of the county jail.

Ratliffe is a Populist representative in the State legislature from Attala county. Mr. Jackson was a Democratic representative from the same county. Ratliffe is the editor of the Kosciusko Indicator. The men, long rivals in local politics, renewed their old feud with added fierceness recently, and out of a publication in Ratliffe's paper over his own signature grew the tragedy of yesterday.

The trouble all came up suddenly. The men had not met since the publication referred to. There was an auction sale of a bankrupt stock of goods in the court house, and while this was in progress a large crowd gathered, though no person noticed the coming together of Ratliffe and Jackson. The first indication of trouble came in the shape of a scuffle which occurred as soon as the two men got eyes on each other.

The auctioneer hushed his voice while bystanders rushed in on the combatants and pulled them apart, some persons seizing Ratliffe and others grasping Jackson. Separated by a distance of half a dozen steps and each struggling for liberty, both men drew their revolvers.

At that moment Ratliffe, who was held nearest the door, was jerked outside, and as he passed through backwards he fired twice, but his aim was unsteady by reason of the jerk which drew him out. One bullet struck the door and the other struck William Saunders in the groin. At this juncture Jackson jerked loose from those who held him and ran out at another door in order to reach Ratliffe. In a moment the fusillade was resumed.

Ratliffe emptied his revolver and then stood still, looking grimly upon his horrible work. Jackson shot but once before he fell, hit full in the forehead, after his pistol arm had been shattered. His death was instantaneous. Samuel Russell likewise received his death wound in the forehead during the final fusillade. He gasped a few times, but before the smoke had cleared away life was extinct.

Russell and Saunders had nothing to do with the fight. They were merely spectators. Every chamber of Ratliffe's revolver was emptied, but Jackson's revolver had only one empty chamber when seen soon after the tragedy. The throng stood aghast when the slaughter was completed.

Even Ratliffe did not move for a time. Then the slayer was surrounded and held until officers came up and carried him to the county jail, where he was placed in a cell. Strong guards were placed about the man in moving him to jail, as it was deemed advisable not to give the friends of the slain opportunity to wreak vengeance upon the slayer.

The trouble arises over the late senatorial contest in the State legislature, when Senator McLaurin was chosen to succeed ex-Senator E. C. Walthall, who resigned. Ratliffe in his paper published a card over his own signature reiterating a charge previously published in the same paper and denied by Jackson to the effect that Jackson, a Democratic representative, had cast his vote for a Populist senator. This was followed by a denial from Jackson in the Kosciusko Star, in which he denounced Ratliffe as a liar.

## THROUGH THE STATE.

Matters of Interest from West Virginia Exchanges.

The Bluefield Telegraph says that there is going to be a serious time over in Logan county during the next few days. Dynamite and Winchester rifles will play the leading roles in the threatened disturbance. It will be a war between certain squatters and a detachment of officials of the Trans-Flat-Top Land Association, of Brantwell, backed by twenty-five determined U. S. marshals, armed with Winchester and revolvers. The surveyors of the above company have made several attempts of late to survey a large tract of land in McDowell and Logan counties. Each time they met with a fierce resistance at the hands of the natives who have held possession of the tract in question for many years. The squatters fired upon the surveyors from ambush and several casualties resulted. The surveyors then retired from the disputed territory. The squatters now threaten to use both dynamite and Winchester when the land men resume operations. The land men are equally determined and declare that they will push the surveying in the face of all obstacles. To this end they will wear in twenty-five U. S. Marshals and arm them to the teeth. Late advices from the scene of trouble state that the squatters are making all sorts of threats and declare they will blow the surveyors and deputies skyward with dynamite when they resume work.

The Ironton (Ohio) Irononian has this: Saturday J. G. Brown, of Wayne county, W. Va., was a caller at the court house. Mr. Brown was here to find out by what right the local officials granted a license to his seventeen-year-old daughter, Cettie, and Alfred Chadwick, who had eloped and were married at the hotel Denison Friday, as mentioned in the Irononian of Saturday. At the probate office Mr. Brown learned that Chadwick had sworn that the girl was 18 years of age, and upon his oath the license was issued. The indignant father then wanted his son-in-law prosecuted for perjury, but as the grand jury had just reported he was unable to do so at this time of court, but threatened to in the future. Mr. Brown says Chadwick is a worthless character, with no means of support for a wife, and for this reason he had objected to the marriage. Mr. Brown's oldest daughter eloped in a manner similar to his daughter Cettie's escape, and now the father claims he is compelled to support her and her husband. Having five single daughters yet remaining to him, the indignant father proposes to cure any matrimonial inclination they may have by making an example of his latest acquirement in the way of a son-in-law.

Sergeant J. W. Haggerty, of Mannington, and a Baltimore & Ohio detective brought two colored gentlemen to this place on Monday and lodged them in jail. They had broken into a Baltimore & Ohio freight car between Littleton and Mannington and were arrested at the latter point. After entering the car they threw some goods out in order to reach some clothing they felt they had use for. It was the throwing out of the goods that attracted the conductor's attention and led to their apprehension. Yesterday they were escorted to the Wetzel county jail, the authorities having learned that the depredation was committed before the train reached this county.—Fairmont West Virginian.

The contract for the construction of the Baltimore & Cumberland railway, from Cumberland to Hagerstown, which is the extension of the West Virginia Central system, will be let March 26. The necessary funds are now in hand and the work will be pushed forward as rapidly as possible consistent with the weather and other circumstances. The distance is 78 miles, and the cost of construction will amount to a good round sum. The gentlemen at the head of this road, Hon. H. G. Davis, Hon. S. B. Elkins, Col. Thomas B. Davis and others, deserve much credit for their enterprise.—Piedmont Herald.

The Dry Fork company, which is building a railroad from a connection with the West Virginia Central & Pittsburgh road, to the headwaters of Dry Fork river, by the way of Cheat River Valley, has completed the grading as far as Harmon, and has removed its headquarters to that point. Two hundred men are at work on the line, and the work is being pushed rapidly. It is expected to have the ties and rails down as far as Harmon, which is nearly half way to the line, by the middle of March, and to have trains running that far a few weeks later.—Fairfax Republican.

Last week suit was brought against the trustees of Broadus college, Clarksburg, for the sum of \$1,398.98. James M. Lyon, George M. Whitescarver and David Johnson have instituted the suit, having for its object the ascertaining the debt due Luther Haymond and others, and a note made by Broadus college trustees, or some one for it, and asking for a sale of the property of the corporation.

Grafton is to be supplied with natural gas from the Mannington field. Arrangements for the piping have been made, the survey will be made early in next month, and the pipes will be laid it is said in April. The distance from the well to this place is some 20 or 25 miles, and the cost of the piping necessary will be about \$100,000.

Yearling colts at Mr. J. W. Taylor's sale on last Wednesday sold for \$11, two-year-olds for \$20, and good horses for about \$40. Two years ago we sold at public sale yearlings for \$50, a yearling mule for \$54, and two-year-old colts for \$120. The same year we got between 80 cents and \$1 for wheat.—Charleston Farmer's Advocate.

Mr. Thomas Hough this week sold his hotel property, what is known as Skinner's Tavern, the purchaser being Mr. B. G. Williams, and the price \$10,200. Mr. Hough had previously sold one of the stables on Washington street to Mr. Thomas Wiseman. Mr. Williams got all the other buildings and ground.—Fairmont West Virginian.

Albert Thompson, of New York, has sued the Blackwater Mill Company, of Davis, for \$100,000 damages, claiming he was damaged to that extent in being prevented from carrying out a contract by the company.

Over 3,000 tons of coke were shipped from Thomas and Coketon last week for Mexico. The lot was consigned to the Mexican Silver Company, and will be used in smelting silver ore.

William Suttle, a bricklayer, who was well known in Davis, having been employed there about a year, was frozen to death near House's Rock, Mineral county, on Tuesday.

The Clarksburg News has entered upon its nineteenth year, and is as lively and newsworthy as ever.

Don't waste your time on doctors when your liver is diseased. Take Simmons Liver Regulator.

The Third B. & O. Excursion for Washington City and Baltimore, Thursday, March 8, 1894.

Round trip \$10. Tickets good ten days. Trains leave Wheeling at 1:40 and 5:05 a. m. and 2:00 and 5:35 p. m. through sleeper on the 5:35 p. m. train from Wheeling.

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